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ABSTRACT

The intention of this lavishly illustrated brochure is to show how a decade of expansion in day care services in Stockholm was organized and to depict the different types of centers built between 1974 and 1984 in response to a municipal directive to meet the huge need for day care services by building new centers. Introductory material provides a brief historical review of day care in Stockholm, a graphic depiction of the expansion of day care during the 1970s, an overview of how the decision is made to build or convert a building for use as a day care center, and a description of the floor plan for centers. Subsequent material describes newly built, detached, standard-type centers; newly built, detached centers in special environmental conditions; centers adapting premises of existing structures; centers in apartment buildings; and leisure-time centers for before- and after-school care of school-aged children. Additional topics briefly addressed and illustrated include efforts to save energy, multi-purpose civil defense shelters that have been incorporated in standard and special centers, details and decorations of centers, interiors of centers, the integration of centers with the natural environment, and children's games at centers. (RH)

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STOCKHOLM'S
DAY-CARE CENTRES
1974—1984

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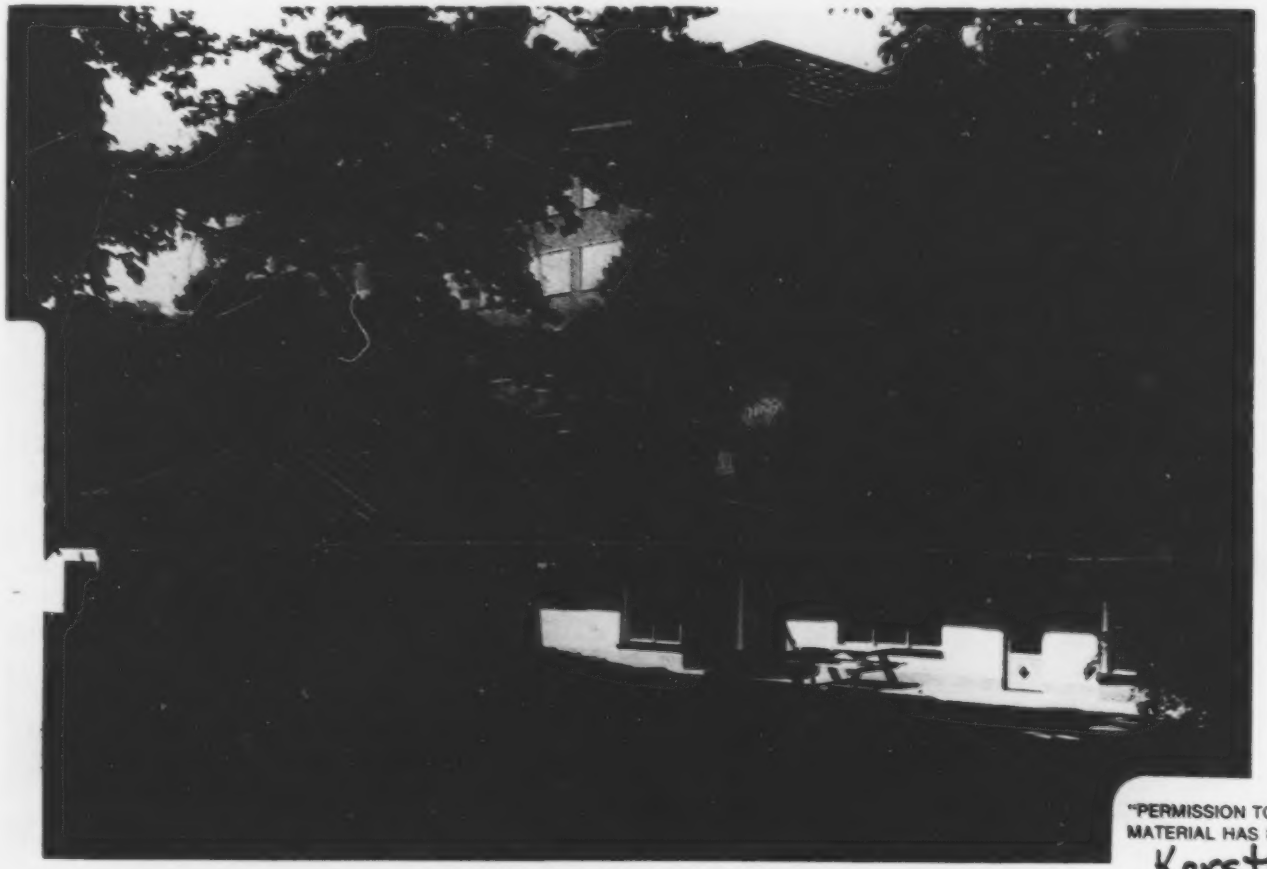

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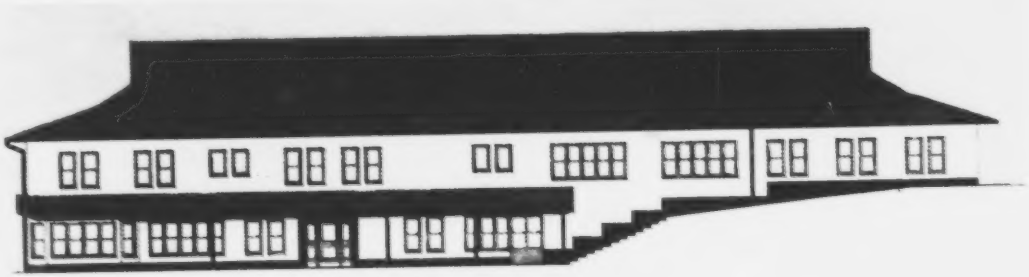
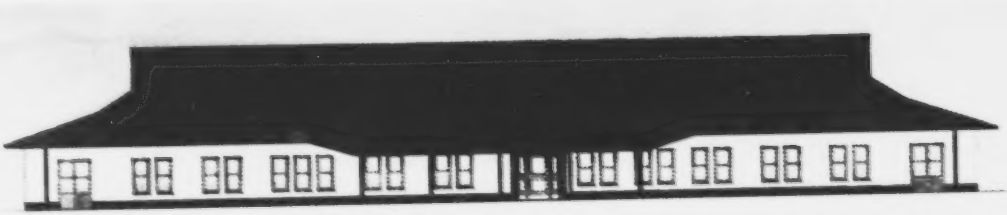




STOCKHOLM'S
DAY-CARE CENTRES

1974—1984

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	6
The political target	8
Stockholm's Day-care centres 1974-1984	10
A quick look back	12
What happened?	18
The executive group	20
The programme group	21
How a day-care centre is set up	22
Premises programme for day-care centres	24
The "dwelling area"	25
The time it takes	26
Types of day-care centre	27
Standard-type centres	28
Special centres	32
Premises	36
Centres in flats	40
Leisuretime centres	42
Saving energy	44
Shelters	46
Details and decoration	48
Interiors	52
Adapting to Nature	56
Children's games	60

I can lift a train
I can ride the breeze
I can whistle in twenty
different keys

I can sing a song
I can hold a cup -
I'll really be someone
when I grow up

Halfdan Rasmussen

9

PREFACE

As early as in the 1950s, Stockholm initiated a systematic expansion of its services for children. Compared, however, with the situation today, the expansion was initially very modest. In the mid-1970s, our sights were raised considerably. The concern to meet as quickly as possible the huge need for day-care services was reflected, for example, in the municipality's child care plans for 1974 and 1975. These gave directives to the city's various administrations, the gist of which was that the queue for day-care places was to be "dispersed through building" as soon as humanly possible.

The task of initiating a fast and systematic expansion presented difficult demands from the standpoint of organization. The shortage of land and premises in, above all, the inner city areas presented a major obstacle. To deal with this, a special executive group was set up, with wide powers to promote the expansion desired.

During the past ten years, more than 30,000 child-care places have been created within the authority. This is an outstanding result, which is documented in more detail in this brochure. The intention of the brochure is to illustrate, for example, how the expansion of day-care services is organized, and what different types of centre have been built. The implementation of the project is a highly complicated process, which demands comprehensive coordination, and scrupulous planning.

Mats Hellsh

City Commissioner for Real Estate

Inger Sarner

City Commissioner for Social Service

11

THE POLITICAL TARGET

Favourable living conditions, for children and adults alike, can only be provided in a society based on equality. Society has to steer development, so as to create a positive environment for children. A necessary condition for such efforts is the development and expansion of municipal services for children.

The overall situation of children has to be improved by urban development, and by the structuring of the social and physical environment. (From the 1976 Plan for Child-care Services)

STOCKHOLM'S DAY-CARE CENTRES 1974 – 1984

The target of the City of Stockholm's plan for child-care services is to be able to provide day-care for all those who apply for it.

Requirements are calculated on the basis of population forecasts, which are revised every year.

Access to places is uneven. The possibility of meeting the demand has been steered by the access to land and premises, which has varied from district to district.

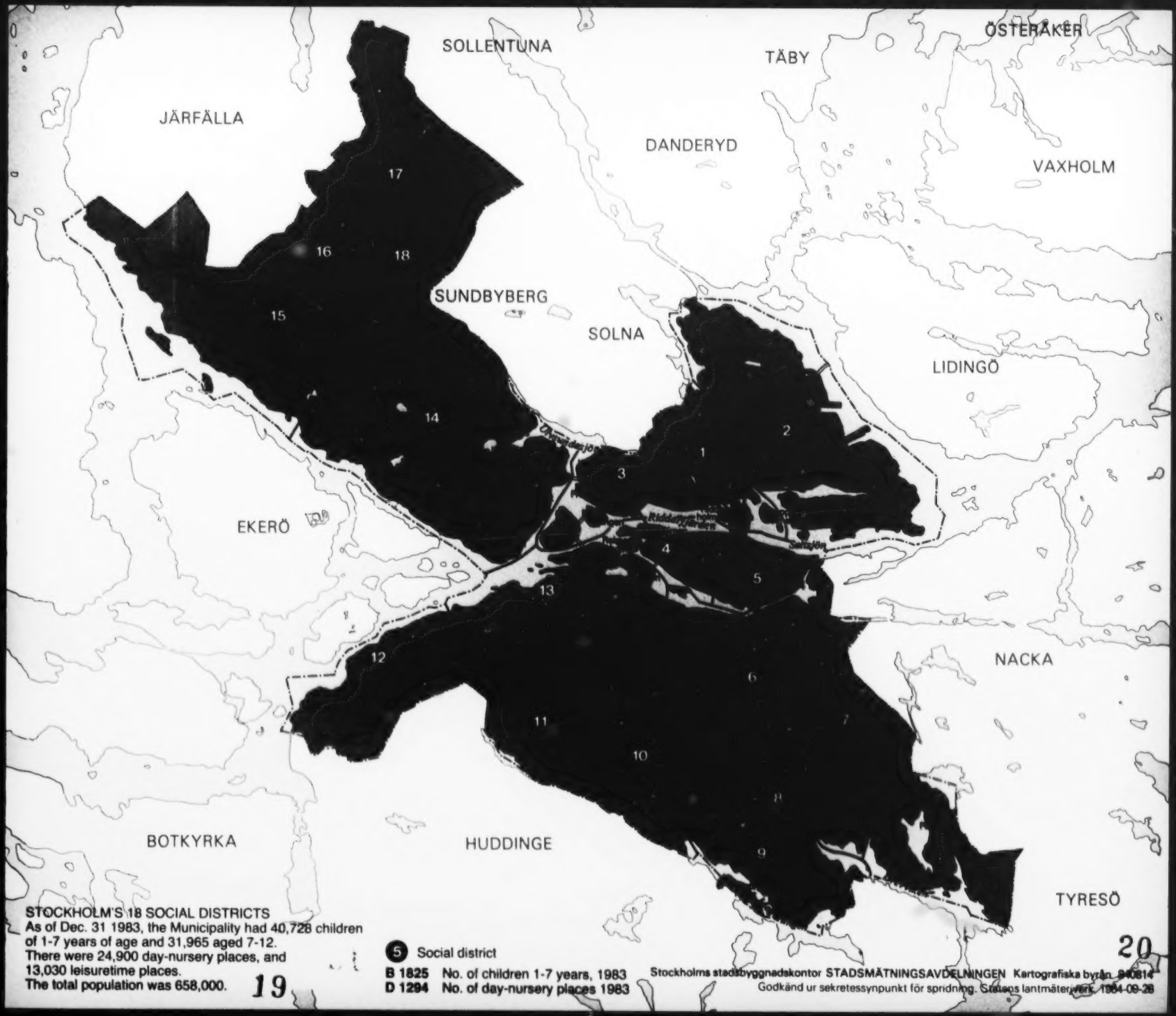
In Östermalm, for example, which is one of the older central areas, with a major shortage of places, there is no available land to develop, and the supply of suitable premises is very small. In Skarpnäcksfältet, on the other hand, which is a new development, day-care centres were included in plans from the start, and all those wanting a place should be able to obtain it.

The forms of child-care that are available in Stockholm, and are described in this brochure, are as follows.

Day nurseries, which cater for children between the ages of 0 and 7, during the day. Day nurseries have 1 - 4 departments, and are located adjoining residential areas, in detached centres, or in apartments or other premises (See p.27).

Leisuretime centres, which cater for children between the ages of 7 and 12 before and after school. Leisuretime centres have 1 - 2 departments, and are located adjoining the schools, either on the school premises or in detached centres.

Other forms of care, which are not considered in this brochure, include family day nurseries, part-time preschools (play school), and three-family systems.



STOCKHOLM'S 18 SOCIAL DISTRICTS
As of Dec. 31 1983, the Municipality had 40,728 children of 1-7 years of age and 31,965 aged 7-12.
There were 24,900 day-nursery places, and 13,030 leisuretime places.
The total population was 658,000.

19

(5) Social district
B 1825 No. of children 1-7 years, 1983
D 1294 No. of day-nursery places 1983

Stockholms stadsbyggnadskontor STADSMÄTNINGSAVDELNINGEN Kartografiska byrån 840814
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20

A QUICK LOOK BACK

By 1939, when Stockholm acquired its five first municipal day-care centres, a tradition of public child care had long been established. With the breakthrough of industrialism, the need arose to look after small children, so that they would not be left alone or taken with the mother to her work. In connection with this, more knowledge was acquired regarding children and their development. The children of gainfully employed mothers attended crèches and work centres, while kindergartens were organized for the children of the better off.

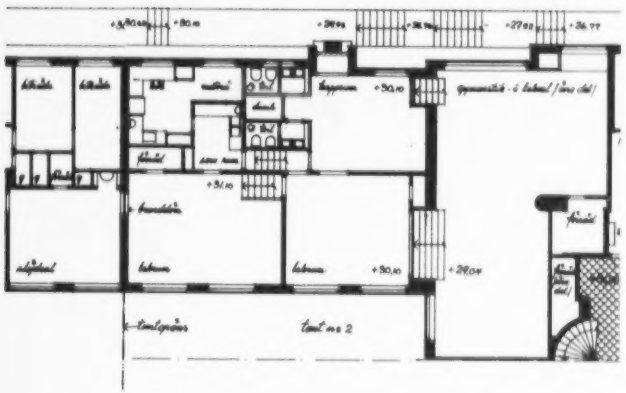
The first crèche was established in 1854, in the Parish of Kungsholm. During the early years, these crèches had a strong flavour of "charity for the poor". Gradually, however, the pedagogic content of their activities approached that at the kindergartens.

In 1887, the first work centre in Sweden was set up in the Parish of Adolf Fredrik in Stockholm. The purpose was to try to prevent begging by poor children, and to provide them with some practical occupation. The children's sense of cleanliness, style and taste was to be cultivated, and their imagination developed.

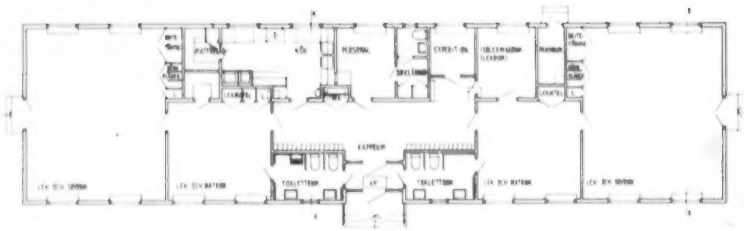
In 1930, the Tenant-Owners' Association HSB built "play centres", a combination of kindergarten, crèche and leisuretime centre. The inspiration for this idea came from Vienna. The new idea was to collect all the children from a housing complex (often one with numerous children) together in a "nursery", i.e. spacious and sunny premises within the building. These premises were often at the top of the building, with a roof terrace, so that the children would get away from the dirt and dust of the streets.

In 1950, a general plan for Stockholm's day-care centres was adopted. The first type centres were designed by the Buildings Dept. of the Real Estate Office. Day nurseries were constructed of prefabricated wooden materials. The building was founded on concrete plinths. The construction cost was SEK 4,830 per place.

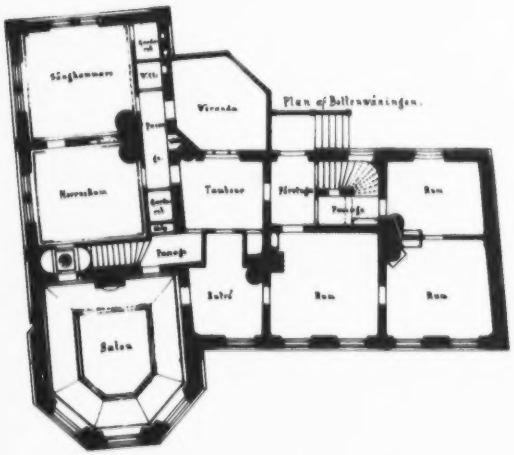
Year	Day nurseries (Crèches)		Kindergartens		"Afternoon homes" (Work centres)	
	Inst.	Pl.	Inst.	Pl.	Inst.	Pl.
1895	No reliable figures available				10	1,080
1910	18	445	3	155	24	3,000
1923	23	875	7	260	31	2,000
1932	34	1,342	13	435	32	2,000
1940	41	1,818	16	680	33	1,500
1945	59	2,861	29	1,123	41	1,700
1950	87	3,158	91	4,000	47	1,600
1952	87	3,553	101	4,385	49	1,645



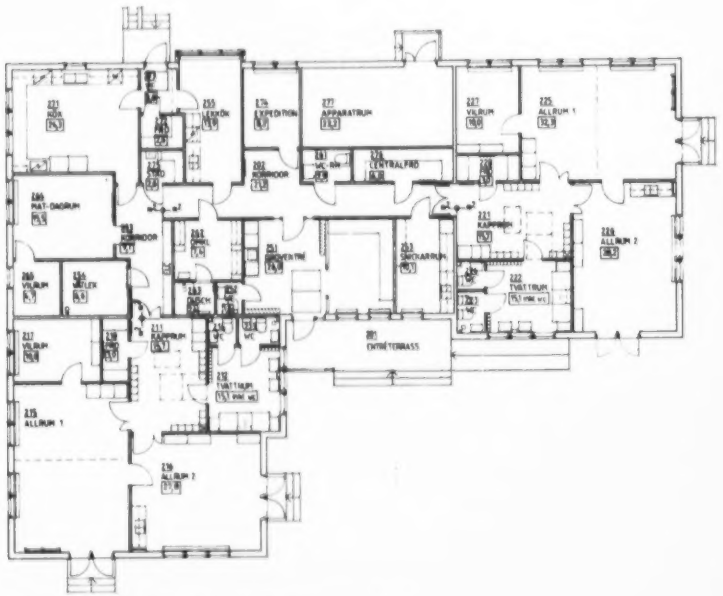
Day-care centre HSB 1935
3 departments 288 sq.m.



Standard-type day-care centre 1952
2 departments 220 sq.m.



Day-care centre/dwelling 1938
3 departments 384 sq.m. (2 storeys)



Standard-type day-care centre 1984
2 departments 415 sq.m.

1934

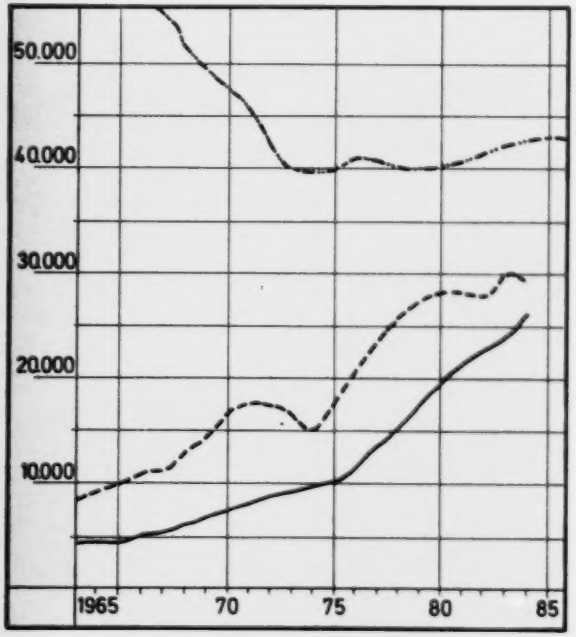
Day-care centre from the turn of the century

Standard-type day-care centre 1952

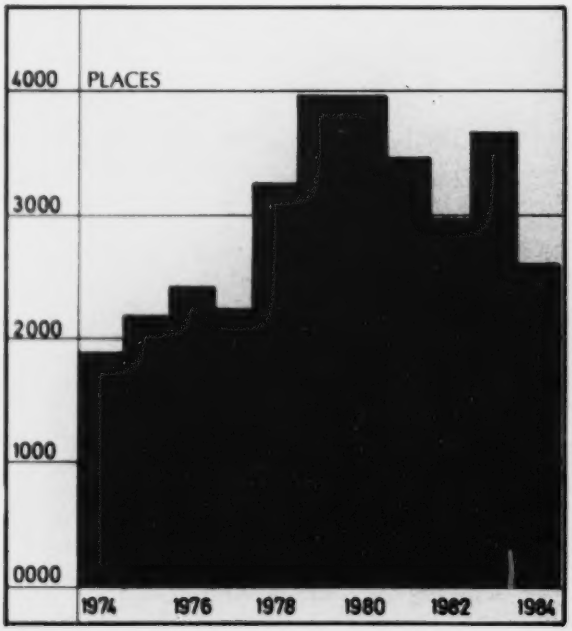
WHAT HAPPENED?

During the 1970s, increasing numbers of women entered the labour market, and the need for day nurseries increased. Various reports, laws and regulations relating to children and day-care centres were presented during these years, and came to steer the subsequent, large-scale expansion.

The government commission on day-care centres proposed targets for pedagogic activities and the expansion of services. The commission's report led to a Preschools Act, which required local authorities to set up plans for the expansion of preschool activities. The central government grants were radically increased, to make it possible for the local authorities to handle this. The Board of Health and Welfare presented a programme with new standards regarding surface areas and layouts, standards that were a condition for the granting of state funds. This programme was based on the proposals of the government commission. The previous division by age was abandoned, and a new one introduced: "sibling" (3-7 years) and infant (0-3 years) groups.



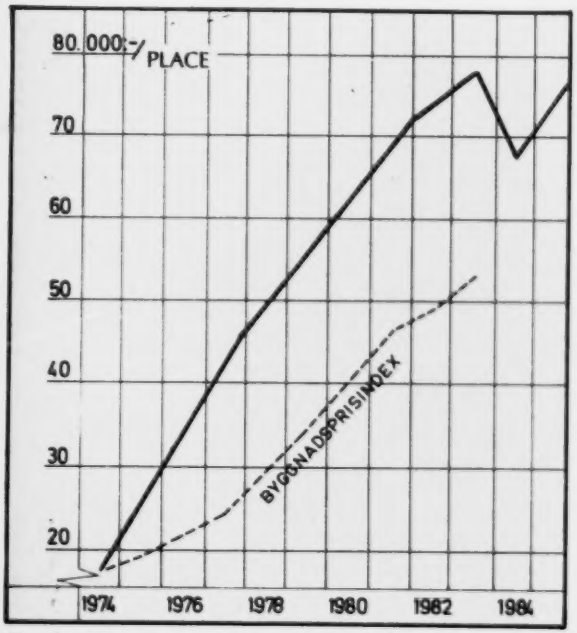
– · · – *No. of preschool children*
– – – *Queue for day nurseries*
——— *No. of day-nursery places*



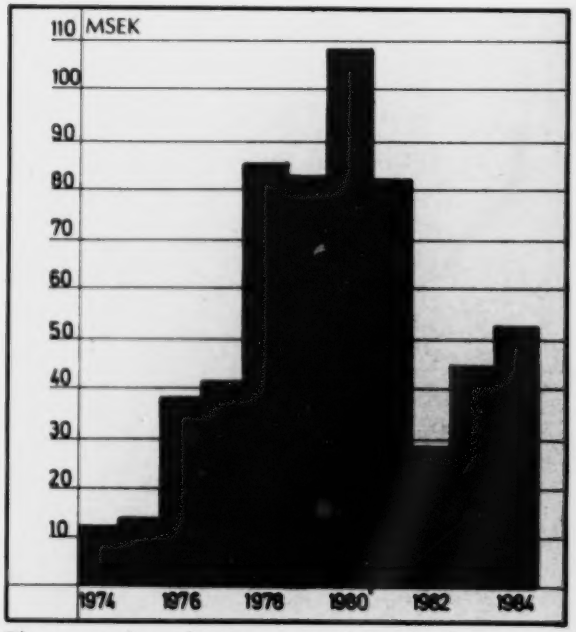
No. of day-nursery places produced p.a.
No. of leisuretime centre places produced p.a.

The Stockholm City Council adopted a new child care plan, the target of which was that everyone wanting a day-nursery place should be able to get one. To achieve this, the Council set up an executive group to implement and promote the expansion.

A programme group was also set up within the municipality to draft a new premises plan, follow development, and scrutinize drawings. On the basis of the experience available in the municipality, programmes for new centres were drawn up. Buildings were designed in such a way that the bulk of the commission's intentions could be realized. They were to be practicable for different types of group, and different ages, without extensive conversion. Both day nurseries and leisuretime centres were structured so as to be easily adaptable to current requirements.



Production cost per type centre/place



The annual production cost of standard-type centres. In 1982, the number of places in such centres dropped as the number of non-detached premises increased in newly developed areas.

THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

TASK: To be responsible for the coordination and implementation of expanded day-care services.	
MEMBERS	TASK
HOUSING OFFICE	To report on available apartments, and handle the evacuation of these.
REAL ESTATE OFFICE Building Department	To carry out planning and building.
REAL ESTATE OFFICE Land Development Department	To assign and lease out sites in the outer city (Social Districts 6-18).
REAL ESTATE OFFICE Urban Renewal Department	To assign and lease out land in the inner city (Social Districts 1-5). To monitor acquisitions, urban renewal, and new buildings from the "premises standpoint".
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	Chairman and secretary.
RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	To participate in the location of day-care centres in park and recreation areas. To scrutinize proposals on location from the "parks standpoint".
ACCOUNTS OFFICE	To scrutinize rents and operating costs.
ADMINISTRATION FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT	To monitor the environmental and health aspect.
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	To assign vacant school premises and land on school property.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Management staff for child care	To calculate day-care requirements in the 18 social districts.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Premises unit	To approve proposed sites. To assign non-detached premises to day-care centres. To deal with rent issues for all types of centre.
CITY BUILDING OFFICE	To draft town plans, and handle building permits.

THE PROGRAMME GROUP

TASK:	To draft programmes for day-care activities. To draft and approve proposals regarding location within existing premises, building permit documents, and working drawings.

MEMBERS	TASK
REAL ESTATE OFFICE Building Department	To plan and scrutinize proposals regarding location within existing premises, building permit documents, and working drawings. To make the programme group's views known to other project planners, administrators, and property owners.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Premises Unit	Chairman and Secretary. To draft programmes for day-care activities. To scrutinize and approve proposals regarding location within existing premises, building permit documents, and the working drawings.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Union representatives.	To scrutinize programmes and drawings.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Senior Safety and Hygiene Delegate	To scrutinize drawings and comment on building permit documents from the standpoint of the working environment.
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Safety consultants	To scrutinize programmes and drawings from the standpoint of safety for children.

HOW A DAY-CARE CENTRE IS SET UP

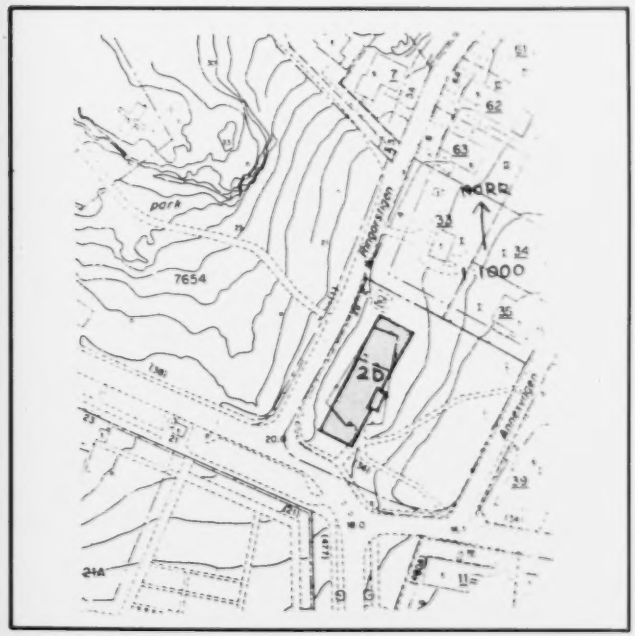
Detached day-care centres

The Social Services Administration reports the need for places to the executive group. The Real Estate Office's Land Department investigates whether a suitable leasehold site is available, the City Building Office investigates other land in collaboration with, among others, the Recreation Administration, and, if necessary, the City Building Office sets up a new town plan.

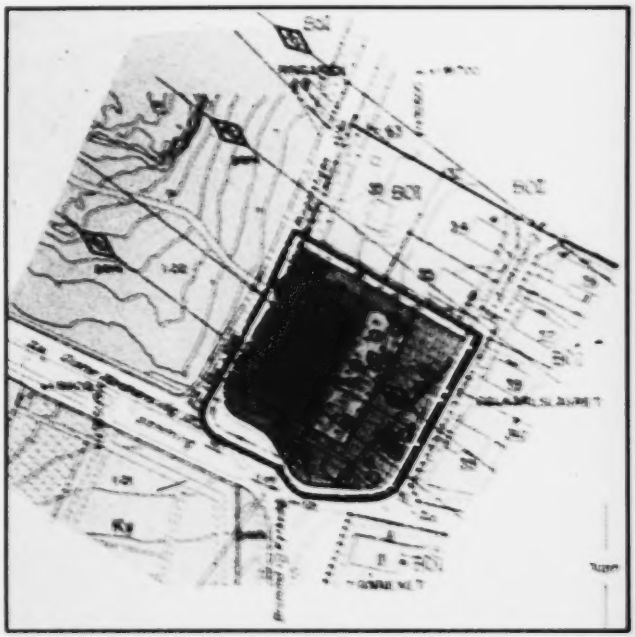
The Building Department of the Real Estate Office produces proposals for location on each leasehold site, and these are then scrutinized by other administrations within the executive and programme groups. After the necessary decision by the Board, the Building Department plans and constructs the centre.

Stockholmshem, a municipal housing cooperation, finances and administrates practically all the city's detached day-care centres. Financing is via state housing loans.

From 1974 to 1984, over 17,000 places in detached day-care centres have been built at a cost of approx. MSEK 1000.



SKETCH SHOWING LOCATION
Some 800 such sketches have been produced between 1974 and 1984.



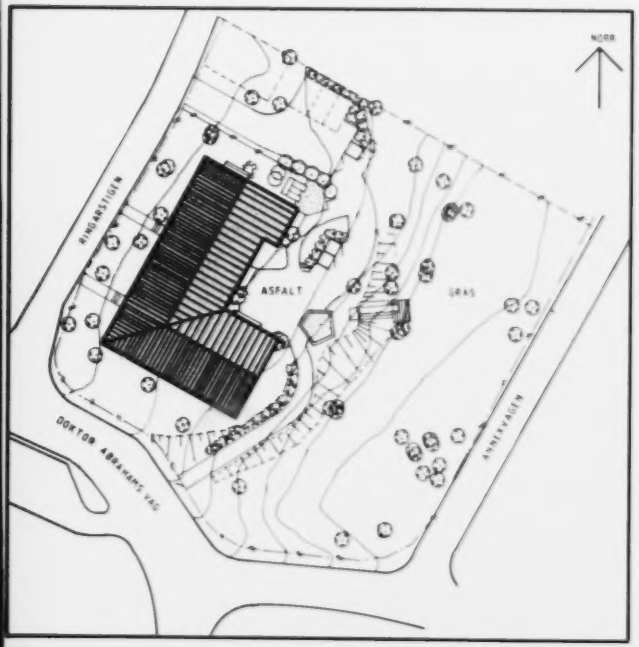
TOWN PLAN
From 1974 to 1984, some 150 town plans for day-care centres have been drawn up. Such a town plan takes approx. 15 months to produce.

Flats and other (non-detached) premises

In the inner part of the city, in southern Järvafältet, one of Stockholm's largest suburbs, and in newly developed areas, the majority of day-care centres are located in flats or other non-detached premises.

The Premises Unit of the Social Services Administration, the Urban Renewal Department of the Real Estate Office, and the Land Department look for premises in new or converted buildings. The Housing Office monitors flats as they become vacant.

The Real Estate Office's Building Department produces an outline plan, as requested by the executive group. This is scrutinized and approved within the programme group. The property owner handles subsequent planning and construction.



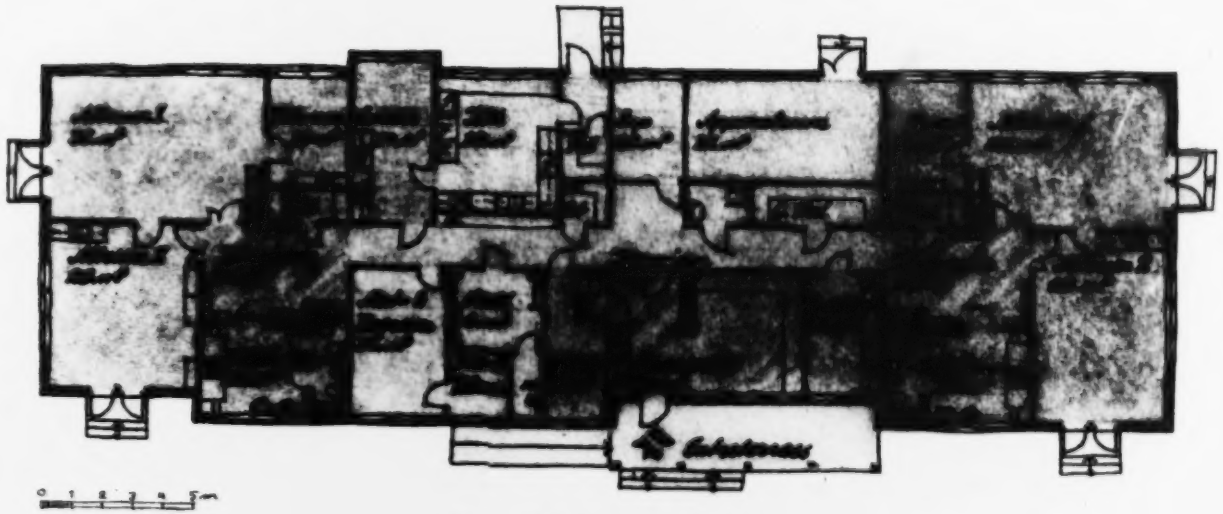
SITUATION PLAN

COMPLETED DAY-CARE CENTRE

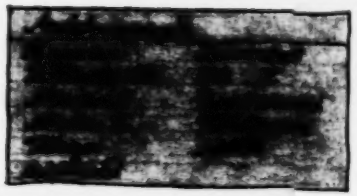
PREMISES PROGRAMME FOR DAY-CARE CENTRES

Stockholm's premises programme for day-care service covers day nurseries, leisuretime centres, and part-time preschools. It should be possible for any centre to be used for these three different activities without conversion.

The programme is divided into "department area" and "staff facilities". The programme states the surface area, and what requirements are made as to the relationships between different areas. It also indicates the surface finish, and the furnishings and fixtures required.



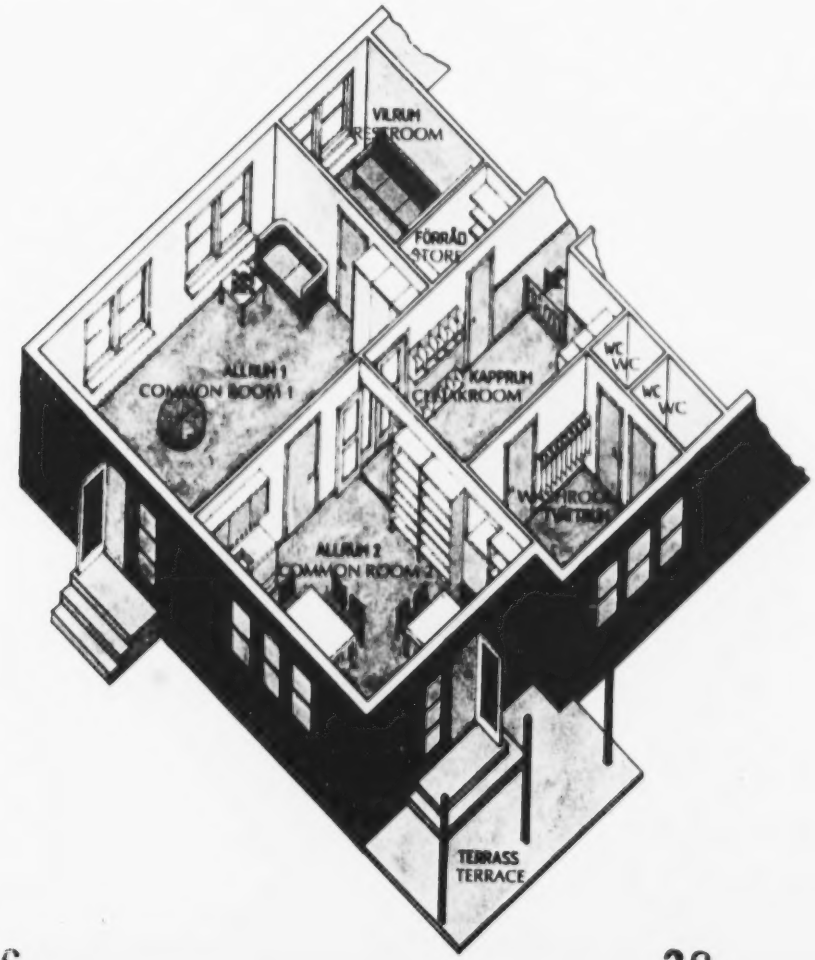
2 avdelningar 409 m²



THE "DWELLING AREA"

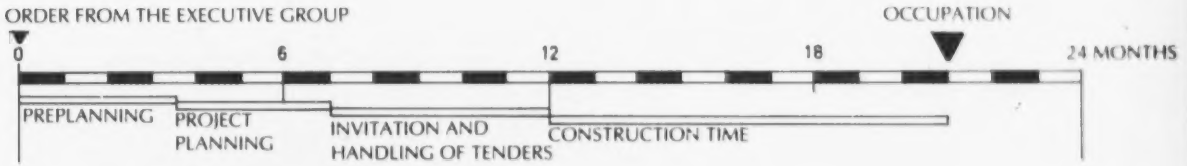
Each group of 12-15 children has its own "dwelling area" containing two large rooms for meals and play, a common room, and a small room for rest and relaxation, plus wash room and cloakroom.

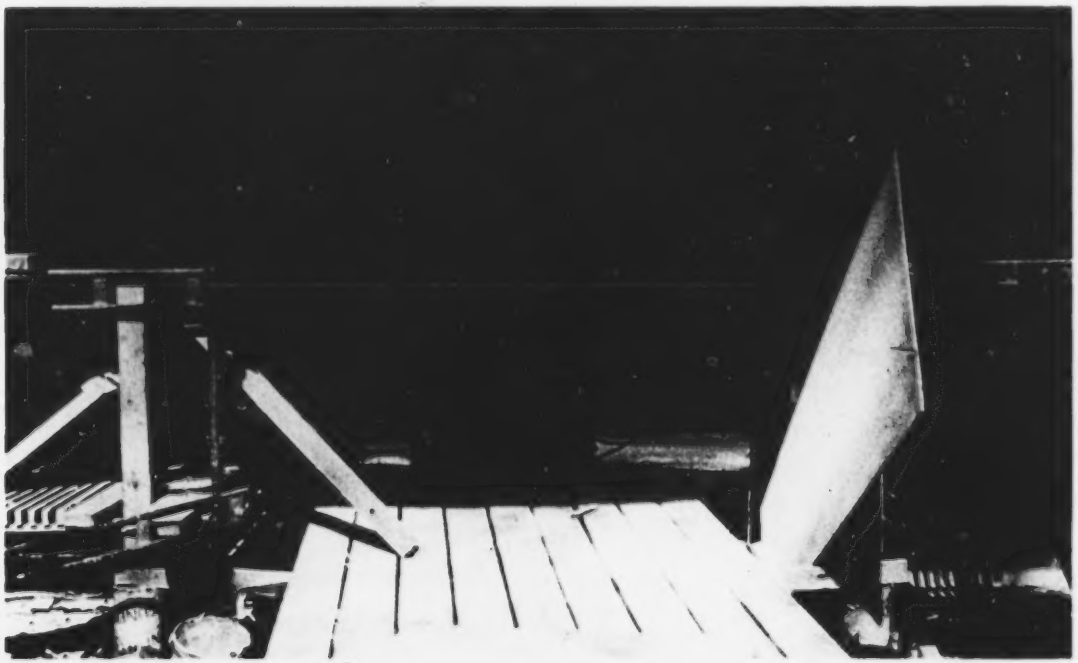
The "departmental area" comprises the various "dwelling areas", plus the common facilities, i.e. the main entrance, carpentry room, wet games room, physical activities room, and play kitchen.



THE TIME IT TAKES

Project conception, planning, and construction constitute a complicated and time-consuming process. The Municipality's long experience of building day-care centres, however, has reduced the time required; standard drawings are used, handling times at the various authorities have been cut, and the contractors used have experience of day-care centres.





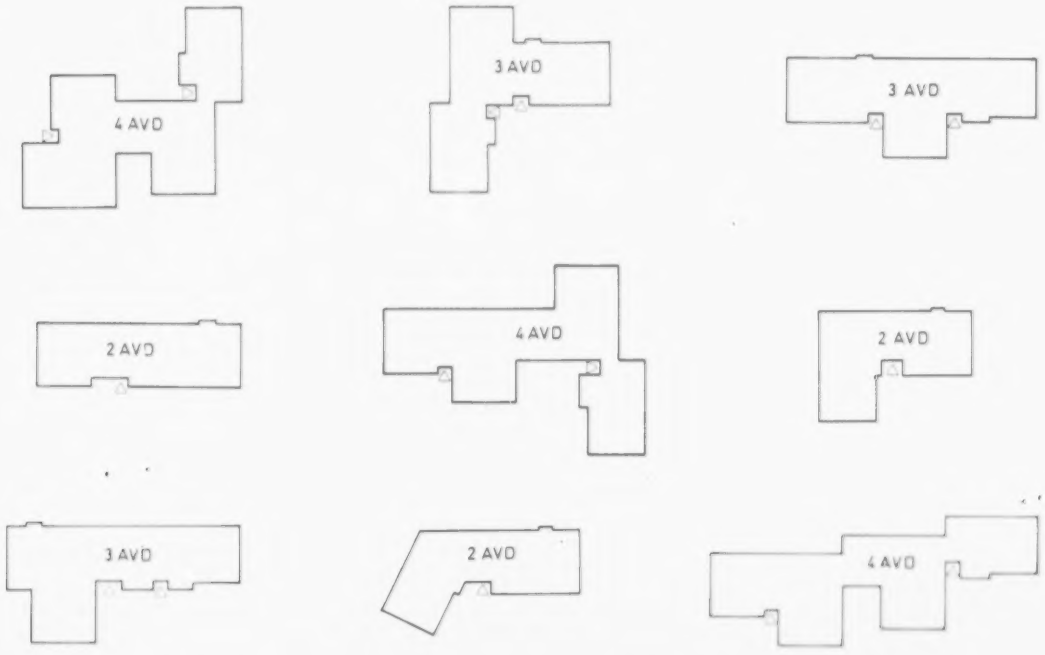
TYPES OF DAY-CARE CENTRE

Detached centres	STANDARD-TYPE DAY-CARE CENTRE Newly-built 1974–1984 13,000 pl	Detached single-storey centre, 1-4 departments. Built in accordance with standard drawings, and produced in several, more or less identical versions. Since 1974, some 20 standard types have been designed. Adjoining site approx. 1000 sq.m. per department. Between 1974 and 1984, some 350 standard centres with 830 departments and 13,000 places have been built at a cost of MSEK 650.
	SPECIAL CENTRE Newly-built 1977–1984 3,500 pl	Detached centre in 1, 1 1/2 or 2 storeys, 2-4 departments. Used in undulating terrain and/or a culturally sensitive environment. Special centres are frequently to be found in the inner parts of the city. And these have a lesser site area then 1,000 sq.m. per department. Between 1977 and 1984, some 75 buildings with 220 departments and 3,500 places have been erected at a cost of MSEK 280.
	VILLA DAY-CARE CENTRE Newly-built Converted 1980–1984 500 pl	Temporary centre in a new or old villa, used to cope with temporary peak requirements, and subsequently returned to the housing stock. 1-2 departments with a reduced programme area (140-160 sq.m. per department). This type of centre was first used in 1980. Between 1980 and 1984, 28 villa day care centres with 28 departments and 450 places have been built at a cost of MSEK 30.
NON-DETACHED PREMISES Newly-built Converted		A centre in the two bottom storeys of a residental building, office building, school etc. Frequent in the inner parts of the city (social districts 1-5), and in newly developed areas. The outside play surface, which is largely in common with the rest of the building or the entire block, is usually considerably less than 1,000 sq.m. per department.
APARTMENT DAY-CARE CENTRE Newly-built Converted		Temporary centre housed in an apartment, or several combined apartments, without extensive conversion. Used to cope with temporary peak requirements, and subsequently returned to the housing stock. One department with a reduced programme area (140-160 sq.m. per department). Norra and Södra Järvafältet (social districts 17, 18) and the inner city (social districts 1-5) have relatively many day-care centres in flats.

STANDARD-TYPE CENTRES

Standard-type day-care centres are to be found in all Stockholm's highly varied architectural environments: in the sensitive park landscape of Gärdet, by a historic old building in Blackeberg, and right in the heart of the central district of Söder. Above all, they are to be found in suburban high-rise apartment buildings, and low-level residential areas. The standardization of centres has been necessary to cope with the major expansion in places. The intention has been that these centres should fit into the variegated town-scape as naturally as the traditional red barns melt into the Swedish countryside.

Some 20 standard types of plan exist. The volumes are simple, usually with a pitched roof. The façades have bay windows, verandas, and a limited range of muntined windows. The choice of colours and materials is adapted to the surrounding environment. Most common are walls with standing lock panels, and ceilings of red concrete tiles.



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A variety of typical day-care centres

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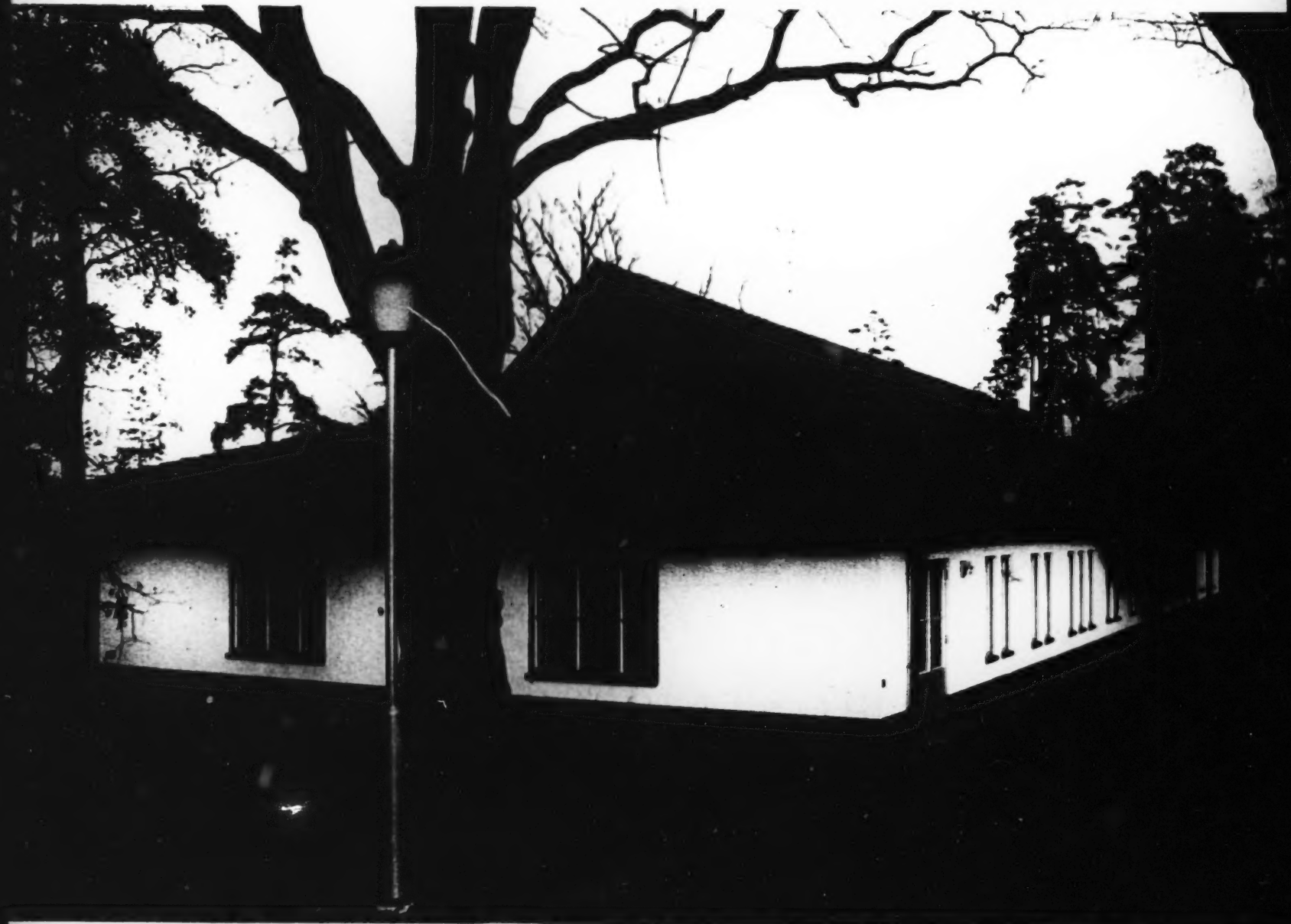
SPECIAL CENTRES

Stockholm is full of unusual environments, and land that is difficult to develop. It has therefore been only natural to adapt the building of day-care centres, both in its entirety and in detail, to these special conditions. Special centres are to be found all over the city, with materials and design adapted to their particular surroundings.



Specialized day-care centres with plaster or wood façades

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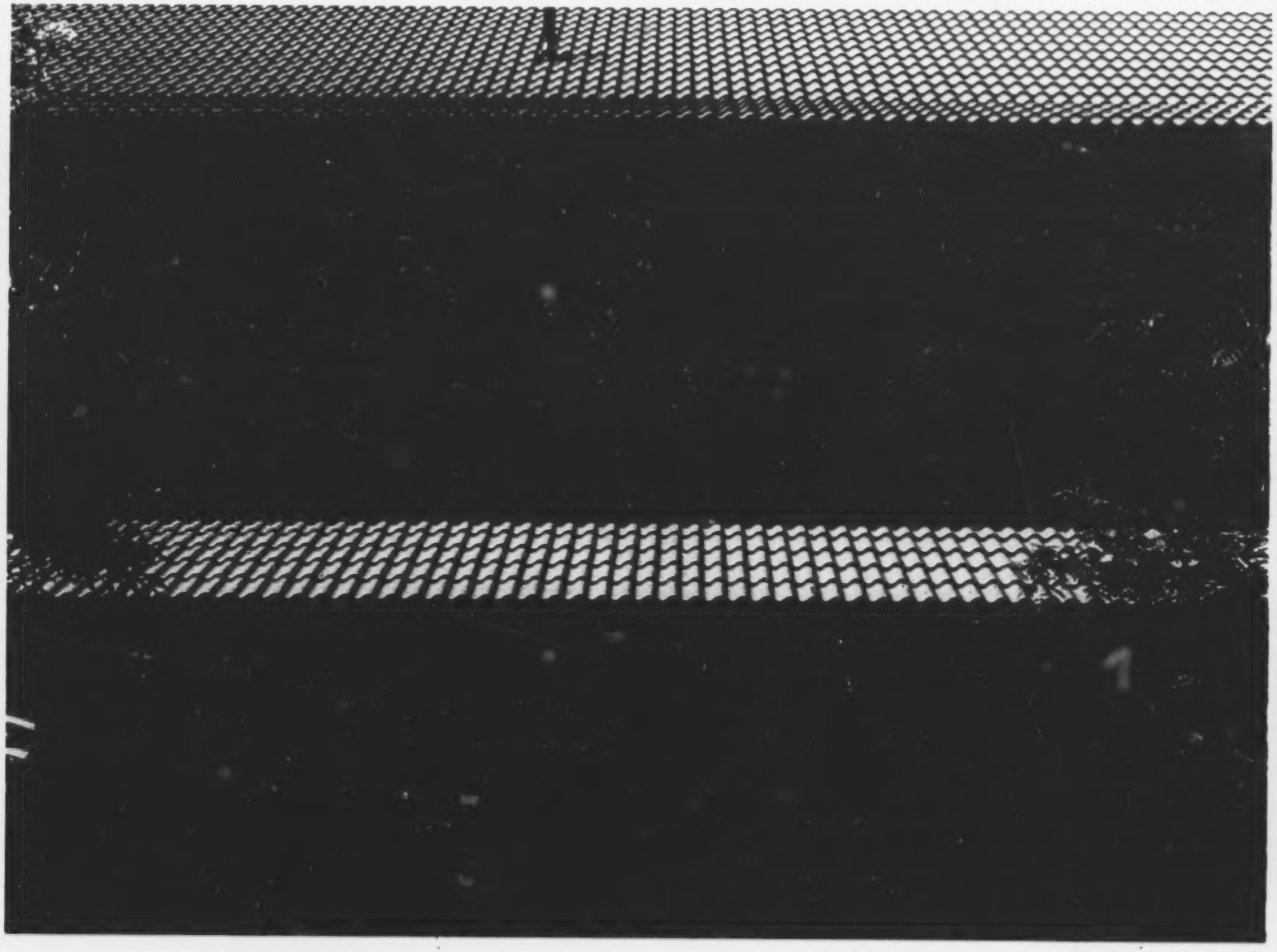

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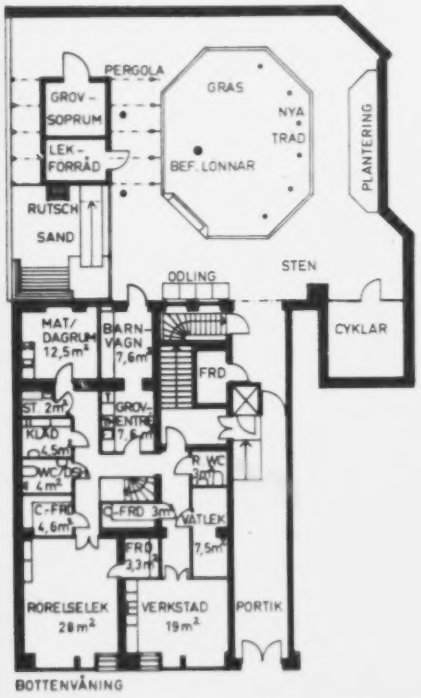
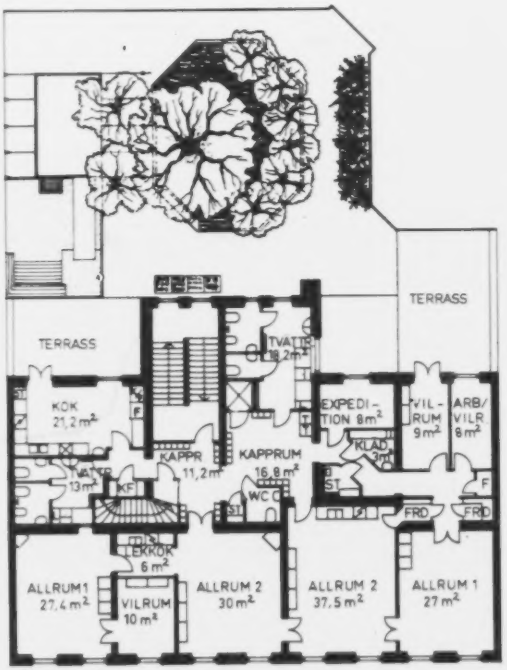
PREMISES

Behind an ordinary façade in the inner city, the two bottom storeys can contain a day-care centre. This is not always noticeable from the street, but behind the walls and in the courtyards it is all fun and games. The lack of new land for development in the inner city, has led to practically all vacant premises (offices, flats, school premises, protected buildings etc) being considered for use as day-care centres, in the two bottom storeys.

All premises require an adaption of the day-care centre programme to their particular character. The solutions chosen are thus highly varied, depending on the age of the building, and previous use. This leads to highly individual centres, full of character, in which the odd practical detail and solution is offset by the whole.



BOTTENVÅNING



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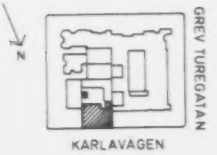

Premises two departments 452 sq.m.

Non-detached premises in two storeys

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57 37

Non-detached premises - courtyard in inner city

Non-detached premises - a protected building

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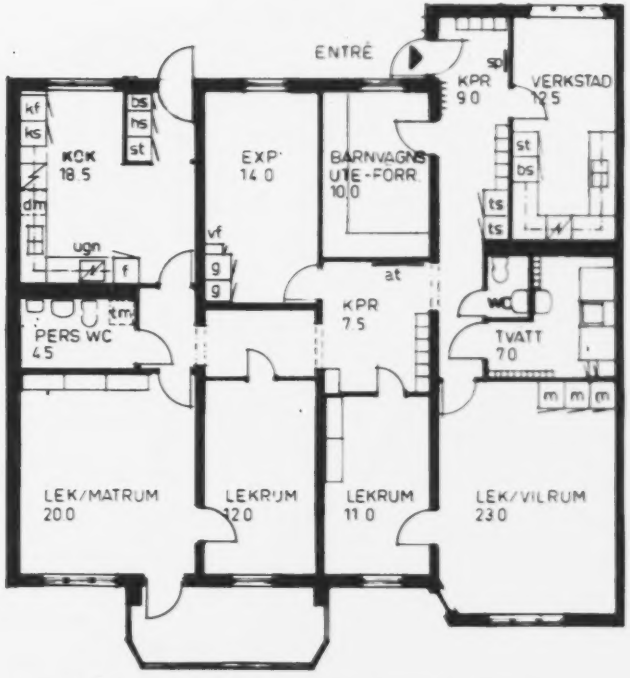
CENTRES IN FLATS

Ground-floor flats are sometimes used as day nurseries or leisuretime centres for a limited period. Frequently, two flats are combined to give a larger surface area. Sound absorbers are fitted into the ceilings, the ventilation is reinforced, and extra equipment provided for the wash rooms and cloakrooms. Otherwise, the flat is used in its existing condition, as it will subsequently be returned to the housing stock.

Flats are always used in newly developed areas, where the need for day-care centres is great during the initial years, but subsequently falls off. In older, densely built areas, it can also sometimes be the only way of getting a day-care centre in reasonable time.



Flat day-care centre one department 170 sq. m.

Outer and inner Stockholm

LEISURETIME CENTRES

Leisuretime centres are located within or adjoining a school. This breaks down the boundaries between the centre and the school, and affords the opportunity for collaboration and a mutual use of resources.

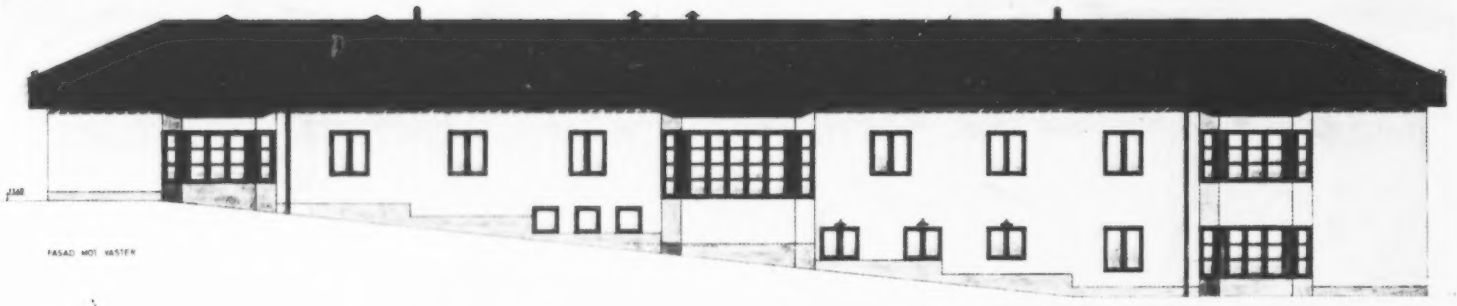
At many schools there is an extended leisuretime centre, where a specific number of children are formally enrolled (against a charge to the parents), or an open, cost-free afternoon activity is provided for all children at the school.

School with three leisuretime centre departments in two detached buildings. In the school's immediate vicinity are two villas, each with one department, and a detached centre with one leisuretime centre department, and two day-nursery departments (and if necessary, further departments can be converted to leisuretime centre facilities).

SAVING ENERGY

Thanks to a conscious effort to save energy and provide heating comfort, our day-care centres have been heat-insulated above standard, and equipped with heat recovery from the ventilating air even before this was prescribed by the standards.

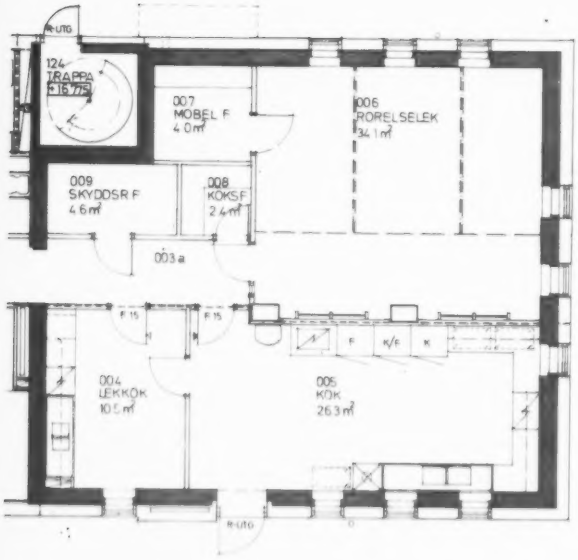
Energy experiments have been performed at various facilities; these are being followed up and evaluated, so that they can subsequently be adapted and applied in a larger scale. Air heating pumps, ground surface heating, and solar collectors have all been tried out, as have heavy frames with heat accumulation, night heating with water accumulators, a light relay that regulates lighting and electronic thermostats for the radiators.



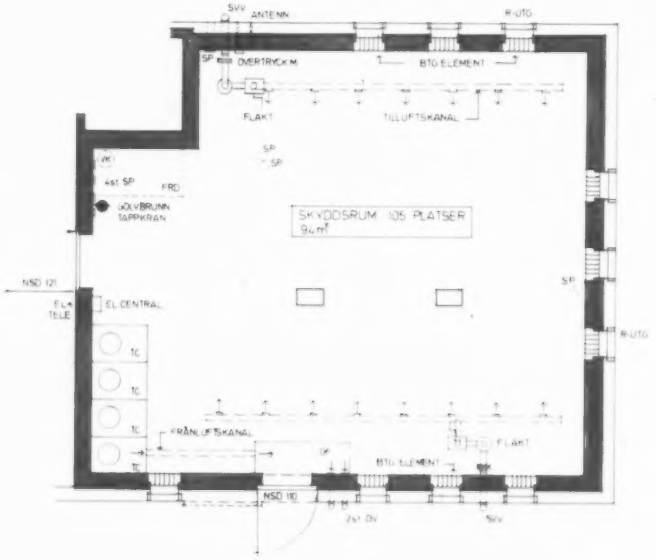
Day-care centres with solar collectors on the roof, and 800 m ground surface heating coils beneath the play areas.

SHELTERS

As from 1978, Stockholm has been required to provide shelters for its entire population. This means that, for each new day-care centre, it has to be established whether or not a shelter is required by the regulations. In the shortage areas, particularly in the central city, shelters have to be built in the actual day-care centres. In peacetime, shelters can be used for day-care purposes e.g. for physical activities, wet games, as a main entrance, cloakroom, kitchen etc. It has to be possible to fit them out as shelters within 48 hours. Shelters are provided in both standard and special centres.



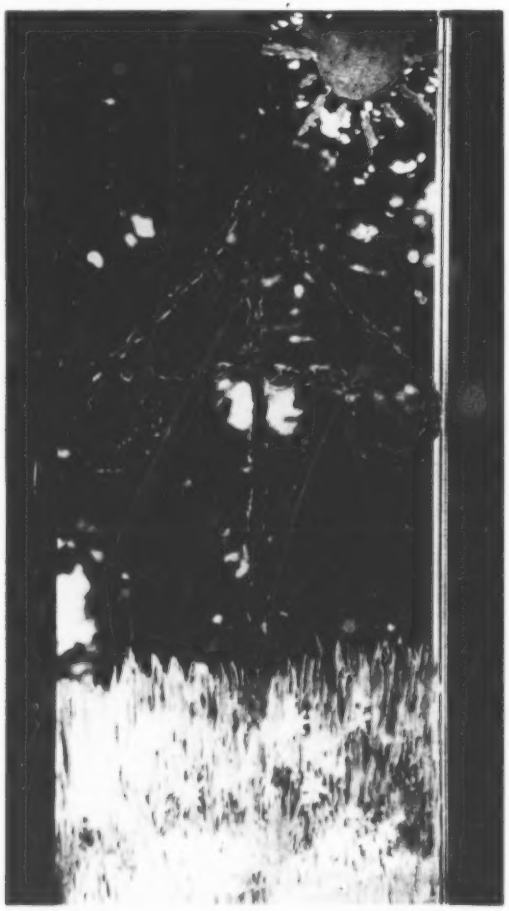
A shelter in peacetime



A shelter rearranged for use

DETAILS AND DECORATION

Great care is needed in designing the details of a centre, so as to provide a tactile and visual experience of immediacy that will inspire both children and staff to decorate, create, and change their own surroundings and environment.



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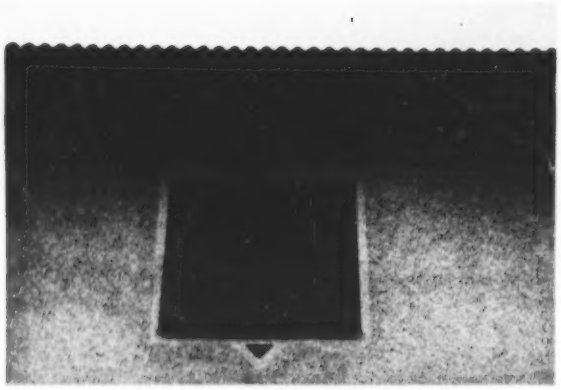

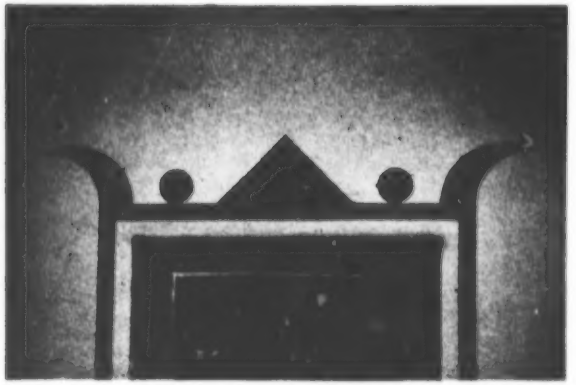

INTERIORS

Rest and games, concentration and relaxation, cooking and eating, office work and care, all these things have to be allotted space within the centre. An environment that has to be at the same time sturdy and friendly, and allow for the many needs and changes that constantly arise.

52 *Common room*

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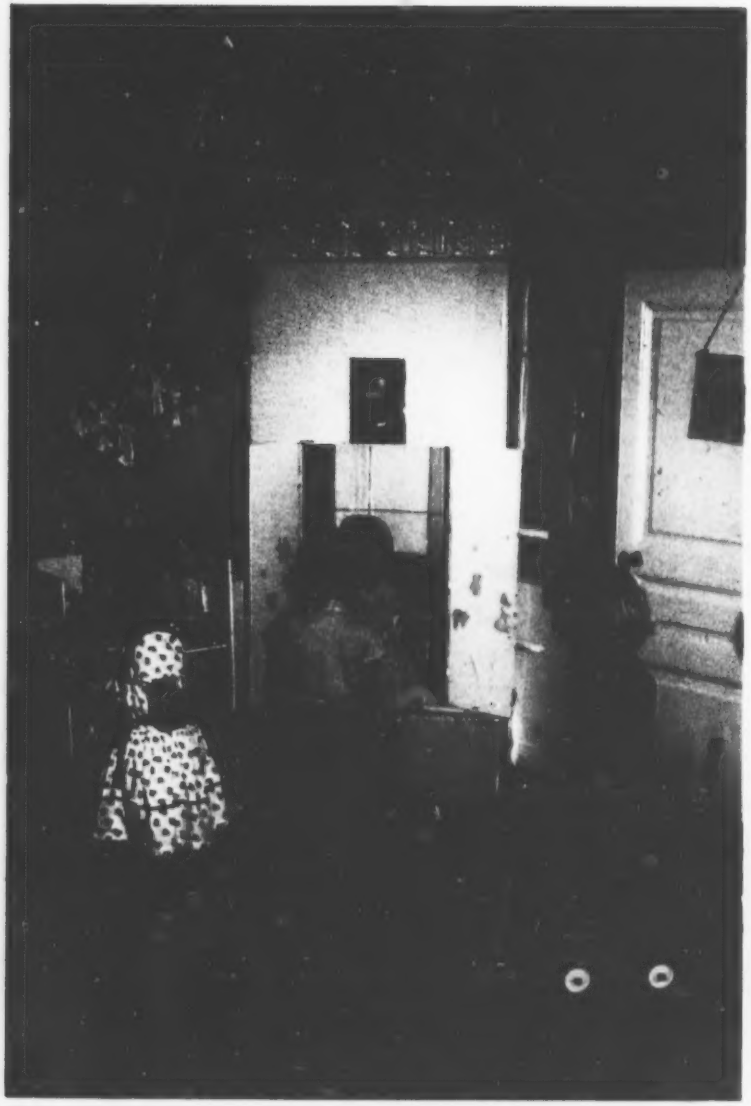
Nursing room



Common room

54 83

Cloakroom

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Physical activities room

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ADAPTING TO NATURE

Stockholm is an ancient city, and in essence fully developed. When new sites have been lacking, it has therefore been necessary to use park land in order to cope with the major expansion in day-care services. Every bit of the countryside has been a challenge. Our goal has been that every centre, when it is built, should give a sense of having been there for ever, as a natural part of the environment.

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CHILDREN'S GAMES

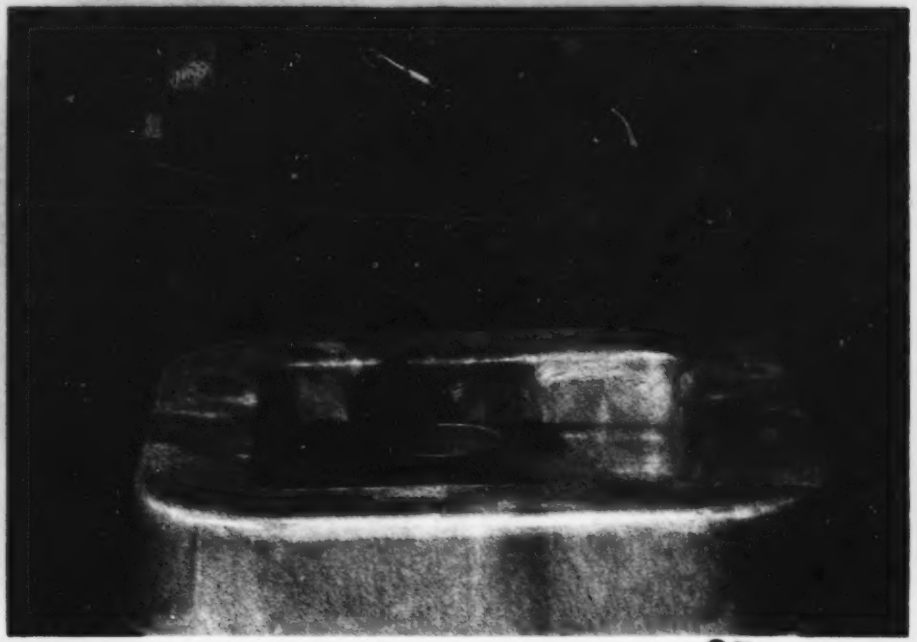
Hoppity

Christopher Robin goes
'Hoppity, hoppity,
Hoppity, hoppity, hop.

Whenever I tell him
Politely to stop it, he
Says he can't possibly stop.

If he stopped hopping, he couldn't go anywhere
Poor little Christopher
couldn't go anywhere . . .
That's why he *always* goes
Hoppity, hoppity,
Hoppity,
Hoppity,
Hop.

A. A. Milne



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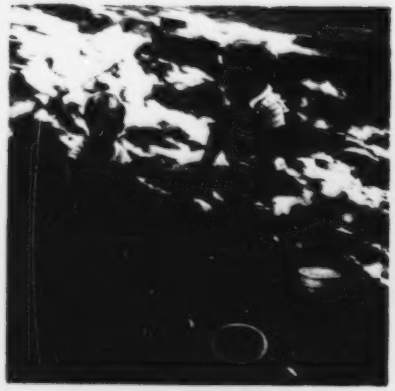
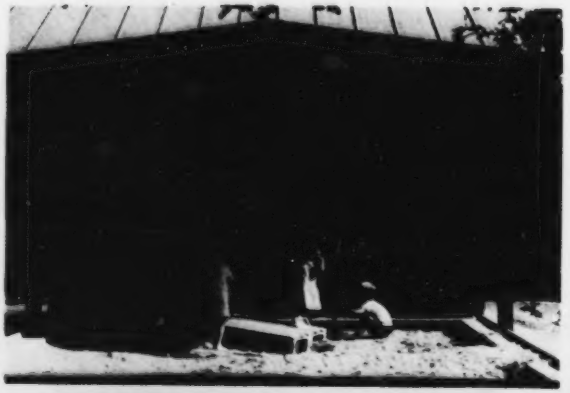

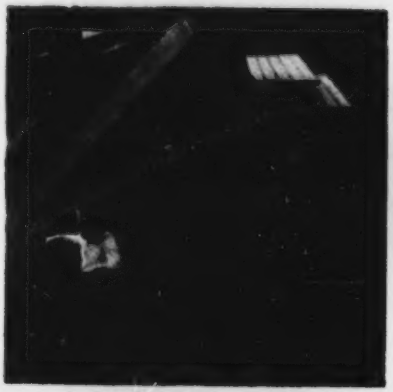

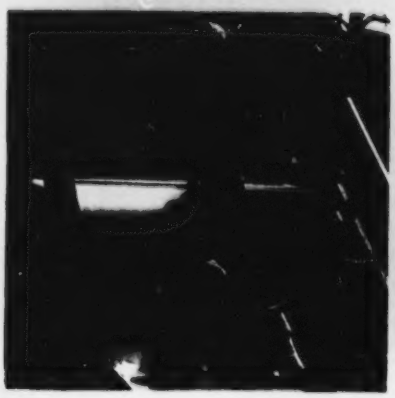

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